

Spring 2016 Supports and Accommodations Frequently Asked Questions

M-STEP Supports and Accommodations

Q: Is there a limit to the number of students who can have the oral translation in math, as well, for Spanish?

A: Yes, there is a limit of five. If you have more than five, put in a request to our office (BAA@Michigan.gov). In the request state that you need a larger group size for an oral translation, indicate the number of students, the reason and the grade levels. You do not need to submit UICs.

Q: When would text-to-speech require one-on-one testing?

A: The Text-To-Speech option can be individually turned on for any number of students. For example, if you have 20 students, all in the same grade level, with TTS as their support option, they could be testing at the same time in the same computer lab, providing they all are using headphones. However, if students are not using headphones, one-on-one testing will be required.

Note: as a designated support, the student should have control over the volume and speed of the translation.

Q: Will there be video sign language of test contents available for M-STEP Science and Social Studies?

A: We do not have video sign language available for Science and Social Studies this year. Although accommodation students would need some additional support for reading, there isn't audio-only content (or listening items) in either Science or Social Studies. If you have a student who requires ASL or SignExactEnglish, paired with what's printed on the page, this should be covered in the table. If not, contact BAA@Michigan.gov, and we can provide you with clarity on your specific situation.

Q: How big are general small group sizes if no other accommodations are being provided?

A: General group size for M-Step and MI Access is not defined and is a general administration issue, with the decision to be made at the local level. The recommendation for test administrators is to be in a position to monitor efficiently and effectively in a testing environment. For example, in a class of 50 students, one monitor may or may not be sufficient, depending on the students and the monitor.

The small group designation of five or less in MI Access was a guideline set for students with significant cognitive impairments. These students have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) calling for a small group accommodation. It is important that these students' access to the assessment not be hindered by their disability.

Q: If a student has a Read-Aloud accommodation for M-STEP, will they need to take the test using the Paper/Pencil version?

A: In M-STEP, if the Read-Aloud accommodation can be accomplished through Text-to-Speech (one of the 2 options) the test can be administered on-line. If the nature of the Read-Aloud accommodation has to do with the voice itself, a human read-aloud can be used for the Math and ELA online M-STEP IF the Read-Aloud Guidelines are used. However, this will also require a one-on-one administration for the student. SS and SC will have to be paper/pencil using the reader script.

MI-Access Supports and Accommodations

Q: When will the updated accommodations table be available?

A: This document should be posted to the website within the week. All documents should be available at that time, including the updated scribing guidelines, read aloud guidelines, Spanish read aloud guidelines, multiplication tables, the manual, bilingual word-to-word dictionary guidance, the translation document, etc.

Q: Will students taking MI-Access be able to use an approved calculator or must they use the embedded calculator?

A: For MI Access, students can use the imbedded calculator, the calculator used for regular instruction, or no calculator at all. The answer for M-Step is different. For more information, please refer to the Accommodations Manual.

Q: Is it true that only FI (Functional Independence) is on-line?

A: Yes. Functional Independence (FI) can be on-line or paper/pencil, depending on what your school has designated, or paper/pencil option at the student level. Supported Independence (SI) and Participation (P) administration of the assessment still uses selected response through picture cards or instructional objects or activity based observation items as has been done in the past.

Q: Is Read-Aloud the same as Text-to-Speech?

A: Yes and No. A Read-Aloud can be accomplished in a couple of ways. It can be accomplished through Text-to-Speech and it can be accomplished through a human reader. The student's need will dictate the most effective method. If the student needs the content read to them, often, text-to-speech is fine. If with a student issue is related to the voice itself, and a human reader is designated, then use a human reader.

Q: Are manipulatives allowable as an accommodation for M-Step as well as MI Access?

A: Yes, as an accommodation. This would be for a student whose IEP or Section 504 plan calls for it.

PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT Supports and Accommodations

Q: Does an accommodation request need to be made for the PSAT 8/9?

A: Yes. This is true for all state-sponsored assessments – PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT that are being administered this spring. All accommodations for these assessments must be made on-line using the On-Line SSD online system. This is different from the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 assessments last fall, which were not state-sponsored.

Q: Do students who have a four-function calculator have to test separately from those who do not?

A: For SAT, this may be the case. Please follow the instructions you receive from the College Board regarding approved accommodations. The rules on calculator use are also different for M-STEP and MI-Access. Please refer to the Supports and Accommodations Manual specific to the test you are giving.

Q: Do we need to order tests or will they just come like they did with the ACT?

A: For all of our assessments there is a pre-ID initial order material window. That window is not open at this time for SAT. Keep an eye on the Spotlight articles. Please send any questions concerning ordering tests and/or materials to BAA@Michigan.gov. All ordering will be done through our secure site.

Q: Will state-approved accommodations be allowed for PSAT 8/9? At this time the SSD website doesn't allow application for accommodations for PSAT 8/9.

A: Yes, the application process will be available for PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10 and SAT. Both approved College Board accommodations and state-approved, non-college reportable accommodations are also available.

Q: How do I ensure that the same accommodations for a student on the PSAT will carry over to the SAT in April?

A: If the student is connected to you, check the SSD on-line system for current listed accommodations. If the listed accommodations are correct, no further action will be required. Please be sure to put in a new accommodations request if your student's needs change from year-to-year.

Q: We would like clarification on what a 4-function calculator really is? Can it have some other functions such as percent keys, square root keys?

A: We can answer for MI Access, but for SAT and the 4-function calculator, the request would need to go to the College Board (and be as specific as you can concerning the calculator).

In MI Access we're talking about the common calculator; the percent key and square root key are fine.

Q: A 10th grader was approved for 50% more time for reading only, does that mean they can't have 50% on the math and writing parts?

A: This is a *time* accommodation, not reading accommodation. Extended time is by content area. Check with College Board to see what reading covers. A further request for extended time may need to be made for math and writing.

Q: If a blind student is not using a closed captioned TV at school, but uses one for homework at home, can they use one for the SAT?

A: This is a specific accommodation request that would need to be made to the College Board.

Q: If a school administers M-STEP on-line, can a student still request a reader and take the test via paper/pencil while the others are fine with Text-To-Speech?

A: Yes. You can still order paper/pencil versions of the M-STEP for specific students who have specific needs.

Q: How do we apply for state allowable accommodations for SAT/PSAT? If the student uses state allowable accommodations on PSAT10 2016, will that affect applications for accommodations for 2017 SAT?

A: Yes, but you can always reapply. If the needs have changed from 2016 applications to 2017, reapply for the current needs in 2017.

Q: Do we need to ask for the accommodation for the use of a four-function calculator?

A: For the SAT, if it's outside the scope of the calculator section, yes. An application needs to be made to the College Board for any accommodation.

Q: Is there no MI Access for 9th and 10th graders?

A: That is correct. There is for 11th grade, but not 9th and 10th. Even if their IEP indicates that they will be taking alternate assessments, there is no alternate assessment offered in grade 9 and 10. You may need to go into the test verification window after the testing is complete to indicate these students are assessed using MI Access. That will not affect your tested rate for Participation.

Q: How do we apply for the state allowable accommodations on the SSD site? Is February 16 the deadline to apply for these accommodations?

A: Yes, all accommodation requests are through the SSD site and deadlines are as listed.

Q: Will we receive notification of approved accommodations by the College Board before February 16, to allow us to reapply for students who were denied on initial requests?

A: The February 16 deadline was intended to allow time for Districts and College Board to work back and forth, so if there's an initial denial, issues can be worked out with more in-depth information and time for reapplication. Our recommendation is to start the process as early as possible.